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23 July 1963

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CENTRAL

INTELLIGENCE

BULLETIN



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23 July 1963

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

23 July 1963

DAILY BRIEF

<u>East - West Germany</u>: Recent signs of some West German interest in more flexible policies toward the bloc are attracting the attention of the Ulbricht regime.

In a speech at Tutzing on 15 July, Berlin Mayor Willy Brandt called for a foreign policy of flexibility and initiative which concerned itself with German interests in the East. He claimed that reunification against the will of the USSR was manifestly impossible and that a new relationship between East and West was necessary.

Earlier, Brandt's long-time confidant, West Berlin Senat Director Egon Bahr, had said in a public speech that German reunification could not be brought about by economic pressures. He called for Bonn's abandonment of the Hallstein doctrine, better relations with Moscow, and, implicitly, more contacts with the Ulbricht regime. Bahr argued that reunification was realizable as a process with many "steps and directions."

The East German press has qualified its standard criticism of Brandt with something of a wait-and-see attitude and a challenge for him to match his words with deeds. The press has avoided direct comment on Bahr's speech, but has included extensive quotations-particularly from those passages dealing with the need to abandon an "all or nothing" approach to reunification, the definition of reunification as a process having many stages, and the need for increased East - West German contacts.

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Congo: Most US and UN officials in the Congo believe withdrawal of all UN troops after December as planned by UN Secretary General Thant could lead to serious disorders and further departures of foreign nationals.

(The director of UN civil operations privately stated on 20 July that he feared the UN civilian technical assistance program would collapse if the troops were removed. He thought most of the 1,100 foreign nationals employed by the UN would not stay and finding replacements would be extremely difficult.)

Congo Army (ANC) chief General Mobutu continues to voice optimism on the ability of the ANC to maintain order and sees no need for UN troops after December 1963. Local American observers see some recent improvements in ANC discipline and capabilities. They believe, nevertheless, that a minimum of two highly mobile UN battalions should be kept in the Congo until mid-1964. The multinational retraining program of the ANC is just getting under way, and the full impact of this is not expected to be felt by the end of the year.)

UN troop strength in the Congo has dropped from a peak of 19,000 to the present 5,500 combat troops, almost all in Katanga. Despite the sharp reduction, the mere presence of UN troops has contained the endemic tribal antagonisms and ANC rampages. The local European population has also been reassured by a UN presence. Added tensions and disorders are likely to arise out of the political struggles in the new parliamentary elections planned for early 1964.)

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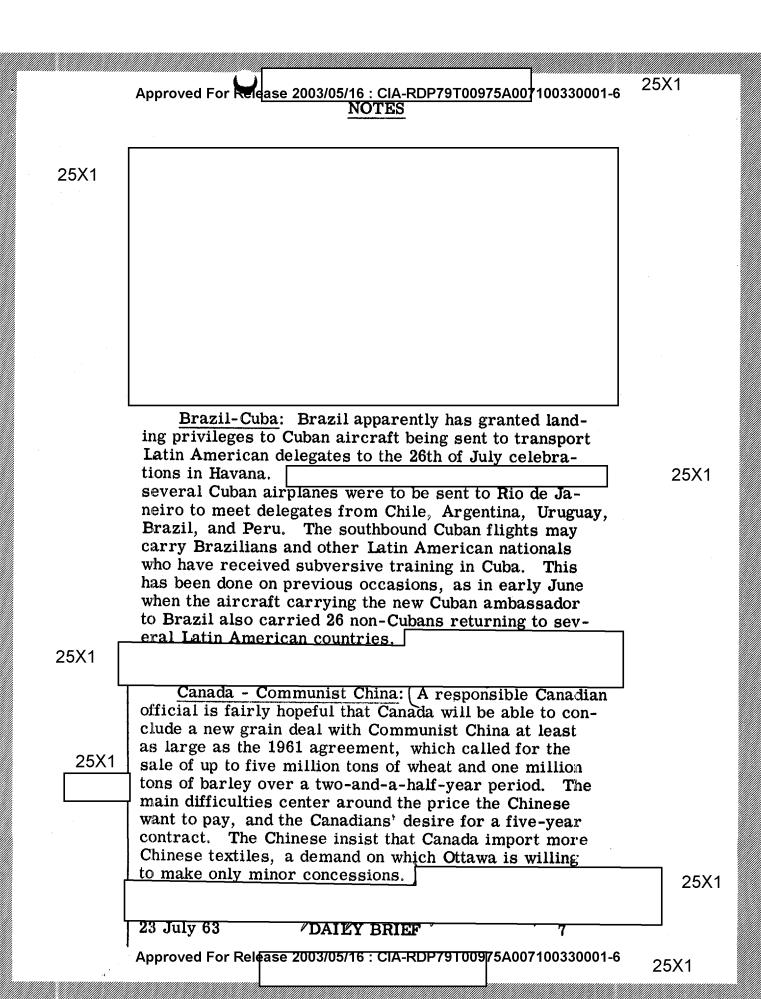
Venezuela: The ministers of Interior, Development, Agriculture, and Justice are preparing to resign before 3 August in order to become candidates in the national elections due in November.

Three of the ministers are members of the Social Christian Party, and one is a member of President Betancourt's Democratic Action Party. Article 140 of the Venezuelan constitution prohibits election to the legislature of anyone who has held executive office within three months before an election.

Betancourt is not expected to have any great difficulty in finding replacements, except perhaps for the Interior Ministry. No appointments have been announced as yet, but several prominent members of Betancourt's staff have been suggested as possible appointees.

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Iraq--Soviet Bloc. The Iraqi Government has declared five Bulgarian diplomats and an East German trade representative personae non gratae for alleged complicity in the 3 July abortive Communist coup attempt in Baghdad. This is the first time that the Iraqis have expelled bloc diplomatic representatives.

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